SAMPLE SLAB UPDATE

35 – APRIL 2024

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SAMPLE SLAB COLLECTORS.

State Quarters in Sample Slabs

50 State quarters (1999-2009) and America the Beautiful quarters (2010–2021) are the most common coins in sample slabs. Some collectors seek to get as many different states as possible, while others look for samples for their home state. But what state quarters exist in sample slabs?

Using my eBay sales spreadsheet, which covers nearly every sample sold on eBay August 2013 through March 2024, I compiled this table. This shows whether each state quarter (50 State or ATB) appeared in a sample from the top four grading services. Sample is defined broadly, including YN, promotional, club, and show slabs.

			ANACS		ICG		NGC		PCGS	
State / Park		Year	50S	ATB	50S	ATB	50S	ATB	50S	ATB
Alabama	50S	2003			✔		✔			
Tuskegee Airmen	ATB	2021								
Alaska	50S	2008	✔						✔	
Denali	ATB	2012		✔						
American Samoa	50S	2009								
Natl Park of Am. Samoa	ATB	2020								
Arizona	50S	2008	✔				✔			
Grand Canyon	ATB	2010								✔
Arkansas	50S	2003			✔		✔			
Hot Springs	ATB	2010								✔
California	50S	2005			✔		✔		✔	
Yosemite	ATB	2010		✔						✔
Colorado	50S	2006	✔		✔		✔			
Great Sand Dunes	ATB	2014		✔						✔
Connecticut	50S	1999	✔		✔		✔		✔	
Weir Farm	ATB	2020								
Delaware	50S	1999	✔		✔		✔		✔	
Bombay Hook	ATB	2015								
DC	50S	2009			✔				✔	
Frederick Douglass	ATB	2017								
Florida	50S	2004	✔		✔		✔		✔	
Everglades	ATB	2014		✔				✔		✔

			ANACS		ICG		NGC		PCGS	
State / Park		Year	50S	ATB	50S	ATB	50S	ATB	50S	ATB
Georgia	50S	1999	✔		✔		✔		✔	
Cumberland Island	ATB	2018								✔
Guam	50S	2009								
War in the Pacific	ATB	2019								✔
Hawaii	50S	2008	✔							
Hawaii Volcanoes	ATB	2012				✔				
Idaho	50S	2007								
River of No Return	ATB	2019								✔
Illinois	50S	2003	✔				✔		✔	
Shawnee	ATB	2016						✔		✔
Indiana	50S	2002					✔			
George Clark	ATB	2017								
Iowa	50S	2004	✔		✔		✔			
Effigy Mounds	ATB	2017								✔
Kansas	50S	2005	✔				✔			
Tallgrass Prairie	ATB	2020								
Kentucky	50S	2001	✔		✔		✔		✔	
Cumberland Gap	ATB	2016								✔
Louisiana	50S	2002	✔		✔				✔	
Kisatchie	ATB	2015								✔
Maine	50S	2003			✔		✔			
Acadia	ATB	2012								
Maryland	50S	2000			✔		✔		✔	
Fort McHenry	ATB	2013						✔		✔
Massachusetts	50S	2000	✔		✔		✔		✔	
Lowell	ATB	2019								✔
Michigan	50S	2004	✔				✔			
Pictured Rocks	ATB	2018		✔				✔		
Minnesota	50S	2005					✔			
Voyageurs	ATB	2018								
Mississippi	50S	2002					✔			
Vicksburg	ATB	2011								
Missouri	50S	2003			✔		✔			
Ozark	ATB	2017								
Montana	50S	2007								
Glacier	ATB	2011								
Nebraska	50S	2006	✔		✔		✔		✔	
Homestead	ATB	2015								✔
Nevada	50S	2006	✔				✔			
Great Basin	ATB	2013								✔

			ANACS		ICG		NGC		PCGS	
State / Park		Year	50S	ATB	50S	ATB	50S	ATB	50S	ATB
New Hampshire	50S	2000	✔		✔		✔		✔	
White Mountain	ATB	2013								✔
New Jersey	50S	1999			✔		✔		✔	
Ellis Island	ATB	2017								
New Mexico	50S	2008	✔				✔			
Chaco Culture	ATB	2012								
New York	50S	2001	✔		✔		✔		✔	
Saratoga	ATB	2015								
North Carolina	50S	2001	✔		✔		✔		✔	
Blue Ridge	ATB	2015								
North Dakota	50S	2006					✔			
Theodore Roosevelt	ATB	2016								
N. Mariana Islands	50S	2009								
American Memorial	ATB	2019		✔						✔
Ohio	50S	2002	✔		✔		✔		✔	
Perry's Victory	ATB	2013		✔						✔
Oklahoma	50S	2008							✔	
Chickasaw	ATB	2011								
Oregon	50S	2005	✔		✔					
Mount Hood	ATB	2010								
Pennsylvania	50S	1999			✔		✔		✔	
Gettysburg	ATB	2011		✔						✔
Puerto Rico	50S	2009								
El Yunque	ATB	2012								
Rhode Island	50S	2001	✔		✔		✔		✔	
Block Island	ATB	2018								
South Carolina	50S	2000			✔		✔		✔	
Fort Moultrie	ATB	2016								
South Dakota	50S	2006					✔		✔	
Mount Rushmore	ATB	2013								✔
Tennessee	50S	2002	✔				✔			
Great Smoky Mountains	ATB	2014		✔						
Texas	50S	2004	✔				✔		✔	
San Antonio Missions	ATB	2019		✔						
US Virgin Islands	50S	2009								
Salt River	ATB	2020								
Utah	50S	2007			✔					
Arches	ATB	2014								
Vermont	50S	2001			✔		✔		✔	
Marsh Billings	ATB	2020								

			ANACS		ICG		NGC		PCGS	
State / Park		Year	50S	ATB	50S	ATB	50S	ATB	50S	ATB
Virginia	50S	2000			✔		✔			
Shenandoah	ATB	2014								
Washington	50S	2007							✔	
Olympic	ATB	2011								✔
West Virginia	50S	2005					✔			
Harpers Ferry	ATB	2016								
Wisconsin	50S	2004	✔		✔		✔			
Apostle Islands	ATB	2018								
Wyoming	50S	2007	✔		✔				✔	
Yellowstone	ATB	2010								✔

Is it possible to get all fifty states, five territories, and the District of Columbia in samples? Almost. These four states and territories did not appear on eBay in the 11+ years covered: American Samoa, Montana, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands. Every other state and territory appeared at least once as a 50 State or ATB. This list includes only what appeared on eBay – It does not include every sample past and future. New types continue to turn up and certifiers continue to issue more samples.

Rarities of each type could be an avenue for further research. As a start, the table shows twelve states used by all four services: Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Rhode Island. Generally, coins from the early years of the 50 States program, such as 1999 and 2000, as easiest to find.

ANA NumismaTalks Presentation on Sample Slabs April 25

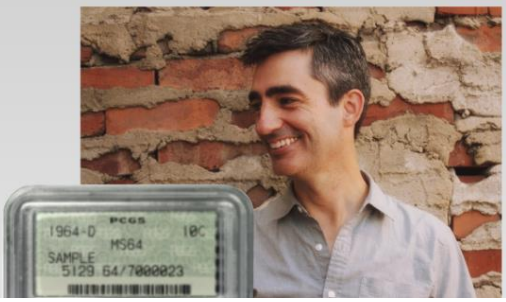
As part of National Coin Week, the American Numismatic Association asked me to give a webinar on sample slabs. See it Thursday, April 25 at noon Mountain Time.

Learn more about this and other NumismaTalks here.

Sample Slabs

April 25, 12pm MT

Want a free sample? Grading services give away examples of their work at major shows to promote their products, reward customers, recognize achievements, and more. In the last 10 years, sample slabs moved from a nearly unknown specialty to the edge of the numismatic mainstream. If you have any interest in sample or grading services, or want to learn to cherrypick samples hiding in plain sight this presentation is for you.



Not Quite a Sample – Single-Grade Slabs

Sometimes you will see a holder with a descriptive grade such as "Brilliant Uncirculated," no serial number, and a simplified label. These are often thought of as sample slabs, but they have a different purpose. I call them "single grade slabs."

A mass marketer may want to sell common, popular certified coins in quantity, such as Silver Eagles or 1964 Kennedys, to the general public or to beginning collectors. These buyers may be unconcerned with the exact grade, or the precise grade may not be important for these generic coins. Coins sold this way are sometimes called "program coins."

A grading service will make this seller a simplified label with no serial, and a descriptive grade instead of a number grade. The certifier saves the costs of assigning number grades and tracking coins in population reports and passes these savings to their customer. The mass marketer gets certified coins that meet their needs at lower costs. The coins are then sold, not given away, and are not samples. Single grade slabs are production slabs that serve the usual purpose of protecting, authenticating, attributing, and grading coins, only with less precision.

Buying and Selling

Buying

I buy sample collections or better single slabs for inventory. For my own collection, I look for samples from obscure or unlisted grading services (such as AHCGS, CCCS, or Global), gold coin samples, and rarities from all services. I also buy NGC type 8.0 holders. Contact me at davidschwager@hotmail.com or Instagram @schwagerdavid

Selling

Sample Slab Update Sale #12 went out in March and was the largest sale yet with 101 items. Remaining items are in my eBay store. I will give better prices on eBay listing for readers who contact me directly.

Slabs for sale
All ship free. Email davidschwager@hotmail.com to buy. All common payment methods accepted.

1. PCGS Authorized Dealer 30th Anniversary medal with seldom-seen bag. It's not as valuable as the Regency pouches that earn about $400. But this Authorized Dealer type rarely appears with the

dark green velour bag. Only PCGS authorized dealers who attended a party at the September 2016 Long Beach Expo received the bag. $150.

2. PCGS employee-only holder. PCGS gave this slab to employees to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the company in 2006. The label reads "PCGS / 20 YEARS OF SERVICE / OVER 13 MILLION COINS GRADED / 1986 – 2006." Some spots on coin. Plastic is pristine. These rarely appear for sale, as most employees held on to theirs. $395.

3. Sample slab pioneer Cameron Kiefer's promotional slab. I dedicated my book to ICG grader and coin dealer Cameron Kiefer, who created sampleslabs.com. He did not sell these holders and only gave them away. 150 made. I acquired several from Cameron's estate. $25 each.

4. Also from Cameron's estate, ICG holders used as favors in his 2007 wedding. Unknown until recently – the wedding guests held these tightly. Two available. $48 each.

5. Four different PCGS blue label Bison nickel samples. $30 for all four.

Additional item of interest to slab collectors.

6. Group of 10 Blanchard stock books. Each has 10 pages and holds 60 2x2s. Vinyl covers. Clean used condition. $95 shipped.

Sample Slab Update #35– April 2024 (sent 4/11/24). Published about every two months by David Schwager, Fountain Valley, California. davidschwager@hotmail.com. Please email me to be added to or removed from the mailing list. Comments and submissions are welcome. See SampleSlabBook.com or the Newman Numismatic Portal for past issues. The best way to reach me and know what I am doing is Instagram @schwagerdavid. I also respond to Facebook messages.